

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-105 (Withdrawn)

106. (Currently amended) A carbon-silica product derived from untreated rice hulls by leaching said untreated rice hulls with aqueous sulfuric acid, the product comprising a particulate powder, each particle of the powder further comprising fixed carbon and silica bound to each other on at least a micron scale in a mole ratio that is selectively controllable between about 2:1 and about 5:1 without the use of a binding agent by conducting said leaching at temperatures ranging from about 25 to about 250 deg. C, the mole ratio of fixed carbon to silica in the powder being at least about 1.0:1 said leached carbon-silica product comprising less than about 1000 ppm total mineral and metal impurities.

Claims 107-116 (Cancelled)

117. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 wherein the powder is devolatilized.

118. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 wherein the powder is pelletized.

119. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 117 wherein the powder is pelletized.

120. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 118 wherein the pelletized powder is devolatilized.

121. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106, ~~made from~~ wherein other plant matter is present with said rice hulls.

122. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 121, ~~made from the group consisting of rice hulls, rice straw, and mixtures thereof~~ wherein rice straw is present with said untreated rice hulls.

123. (Original) Silicon made from the powder of claim 106.

124. (Original) Silicon made from the devolatilized powder of claim 117.

125. (Original) Silicon made from the pelletized powder of claim 118.

126. (Original) Silicon carbide made from the powder of claim 106.

127. (Original) Silicon carbide made from the devolatilized powder of claim 117.

128. (Original) Silicon carbide made from the pelletized powder of claim 118.

129. (Original) Silicon nitride made from the powder of claim 106.

130. (Original) Silicon nitride made from the devolatilized powder of claim 117.

131. (Original) Silicon nitride made from the pelletized powder of claim 118.
132. (Original) Silicon tetrachloride made from the powder of claim 106.
133. (Original) Silicon tetrachloride made from the devolatilized powder of claim 117.
134. (Original) Silicon tetrachloride made from the pelletized powder of claim 118.

Claim 135 (Cancelled)

136. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim ~~[[135]]~~ 106 comprising less than about 500 ppm by weight ~~minerals~~ total mineral and metal impurities.

137. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim 136 comprising less than about 200 ppm by weight ~~minerals~~ total mineral and metal impurities.

138. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim 137 comprising less than about 100 ppm by weight ~~minerals~~ total mineral and metal impurities.

139. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim ~~[[135]]~~ 106 wherein the ~~minerals~~ mineral and metal impurities are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, manganese, iron, boron, aluminum, phosphorous, and oxygen-containing compounds thereof.

140. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim 136 wherein the ~~minerals~~ mineral and metal impurities are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, manganese, iron, boron, aluminum, phosphorous, and oxygen-containing compounds thereof.

141. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim 137 wherein the ~~minerals~~ mineral and metal impurities are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, manganese, iron, boron, aluminum, phosphorous, and oxygen-containing compounds thereof.

142. (Currently amended) The carbon-silica product of claim 138 wherein the ~~minerals~~ mineral and metal impurities are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, manganese, iron, boron, aluminum, phosphorous, and oxygen-containing compounds thereof.

143. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight phosphorous.

144. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 143 comprising less than about 4 ppm by weight phosphorous.

145. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight sodium.

146. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight potassium.

147. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight magnesium.

148. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 20 ppm by weight calcium.

149. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 148 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight calcium.

150. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight manganese.

151. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 30 ppm by weight iron.

152. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 151 comprising less than about 20 ppm by weight iron.

153. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 152 comprising less than about 10 ppm by weight iron.

154. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 5 ppm by weight boron.

155. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 154 comprising less than about 2 ppm by weight boron.

156. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 comprising less than about 50 ppm by weight aluminum.

157. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 156 comprising less than about 20 ppm aluminum.

158. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 having an internal void volume of about 30% to about 90%.

159. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 158 having an internal void volume of about 30% to about 80%.

160. (Original) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 having an internal void volume greater than about 50%.

161. (New) The carbon-silica product of claim 106 wherein the leaching continues for a period ranging between about 6 seconds and 48 hours.

162. (New) The carbon-silica product of claim 161 wherein the leaching continues for a period ranging between about one minute and about 30 minutes.